

CLAIMS

1. A print distribution system in which plural printing apparatuses are connected over a network, and printed data created by a data processing apparatus used in a sender is distributed to plural distribution destinations, the print distribution system comprising:
- 5 an association information holding unit that holds in advance information indicating correspondences between plural distribution destinations and plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations; and
- 10 a print setting management unit that collectively manages settings of print conditions of the plural printing apparatuses,
- 15 wherein, when a request to print out the printed data is outputted to the plural distribution destinations from the sender, the print setting management unit, on the basis of information held in the association information holding unit, locates plural printing apparatuses used in plural distribution destinations specified by the sender, sets the print conditions for the plural located printing apparatuses, and activates printout of the printed data.
- 20 2. The print distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the print setting management unit has a function for setting common print conditions for plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations.
- 25 3. The print distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the print setting management unit has a function for selecting whether to set print conditions specific to each of the plural distribution destinations or to set print conditions common to plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations.
- 30 4. The print distribution system according to claim 1, further including plural printed data creation apparatuses for creating printed data of the plural
- 35

printing apparatuses and performing the printout.

5           5.    The print distribution system according to claim 1, wherein the association information holding unit comprises a database recording information containing at least a sender name of the printed data, a printed data creation apparatus name corresponding to each of the plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations, and respective mail addresses of the plural distribution destinations.

10           6.    The print distribution system according to one of claims 1 to 5, having a function that, when a request for the printout is issued from the sender, prevents an error detected in a specific printing apparatus of the plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations from affecting the printout of other printing apparatuses.

15           7.    The print distribution system according to one of claims 1 to 5, having a function that notifies the plural distribution destinations by mail at almost the same time that the printout has been started.

20           8.    The print distribution system according to one of claims 1 to 5, having a function that, when an error is detected in a specific printing apparatus of the plural printing apparatuses used in the plural distribution destinations, notifies distribution destinations using the specific printing apparatus of contents of the error.

25           9.    The print distribution system according to claim 5, having a function that, when printed data to be respectively distributed to plural distribution destinations is printed out in one printing apparatus, in order to avoid confusion of the printed data, creates additional information for each of the plural distribution destinations on the basis of information containing the sender name, the printed data creation apparatus names, and the mail addresses registered in the database.

30

35

10. A print distribution program that instructs a computer to execute:

5           a part that holds in advance information indicating correspondences between plural distribution destinations and plural printing apparatuses on a network used in the plural distribution destinations;

10           a part that, when a request to print out printed data created in a sender is outputted to the plural distribution destinations from the sender, on the basis of the information held in advance, locates plural printing apparatuses used in plural distribution destinations specified by the sender, and sets print conditions of the plural printing apparatuses for the plural located printing apparatuses; and

15           a part that activates the plural located printing apparatuses to print out the printed data according to the set print conditions.